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INCOMING TELEGRAM — Department of State — ACTION COPY

TELEGRAPH BRANCH
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Action: EUR

1950 AUG 2

Control: 1747
Rec'd: August 3, 1950
8:03 a.m.

Info: SS G P OLI CIA AAN SY IE EURX DCR GER

FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 170; August 1, 5 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 170; REPEATED INFO LONDON 35, PARIS 49.

Though basis for agreement to settle royal question was reached by representatives of three parties at 8 last evening, King's signature was not obtained until 7:10 this morning. Text by separate telegram. Drafting is attributed to Spaak. It is reported that assurances were given to Socialists that King will leave Belgium after transmission power Baudouin.

XR 755.11

When Buset, President Socialist Party, left Prime Minister at 8 this morning, Buset stated it was too late then to prevent march on Brussels adding he had requested persons taking part to come to Socialist headquarters and had requested authorities instruct police to be discreet. At 10 a.m., Socialist committee announced on radio march was called off. In addition to demand effacement of King, Socialists revived their demand for 40-hour week. Embassy ascertained this morning Socialist headquarters that though there is great satisfaction at effacement, it is now being debated whether strikes should continue with view obtaining satisfaction of 40-hour week. Prime Minister has announced that Cabinet will not resign.

XR 755.021

Belgian security authorities inform Embassy that though some persons taking part in march on Brussels are reaching capital either because they did not receive news in time or wished to come anyway, trouble is regarded as unlikely unless as result of celebrating or by Communist agitators. These authorities look for early restoration tranquillity throughout Belgium.

There is not slightest doubt that Communists are greatly disappointed settlement royal question by three major parties--not including Communists. This robs them of splendid opportunity for disorder and making common cause with Socialists. Party line shown by Lalmand's editorial this morning which ends thus "Down with Monarchy, long live the Republic". He said Baudouin would not be able efface memory of the man who preceded him.

XR 755.022

Minister of Defense states that two battalions from Germany

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755.00/8-150

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(EMBTEL 151 of July 31) are remaining Belgium as headquarters reserve and will not be returned Germany until complete tranquillity established. Minister also states second lancers, an armored regiment was ordered to Brussels yesterday from bourgeois Leopold, northwest Belgium. They left this morning and should reach Brussels sometime today as orders have not cancelled.

MURPHY

LMS:ALH